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SEP 06 2005

Utility Patent
Ser. No. 10/683,997

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims below by deleting items marked with a strikeout (i.e. patent) or brackets (i.e., [patent]) and adding items marked with an underline (i.e. patent).

1. Canceled.
2. Canceled.
3. Canceled.
4. Canceled.
5. Canceled.
6. Canceled.
7. (Canceled).
8. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A retractable support stand for a snowmobile [[of Claim 6,]]
comprising:
a slide channel mounted below a seat area the snowmobile in a horizontal fashion;
an upright support member telecopingly mounted with said slide channel such that
when said upright support member is at a forward end, it is fully stowed, and when said upright
support member is at an aft end it is deployed and pivotally to such a position as to allow a
snowmobile's drive track and suspension to be raised up off of the surrounding grade, wherein
said upright support member terminates with a flexible plate spanning between a first cross

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member and a second cross member to provide a significant enough footprint to prevent the retractable stand from penetrating into snow if the stand is being used under outdoor conditions.

9. (Original) The retractable support stand for a snowmobile of Claim 8, wherein said flexible plate is selected from the group comprising KEVLAR(TM), nylon, and canvas type material.

10. Canceled.

11. Canceled.

12. (Currently Amended) [[The improvement of Claim 11,]] In a snowmobile, the improvement comprising:
a snowmobile bumper in combination with a retractable support stand concealably deployable from said bumper, wherein said retractable support stand comprises:
a slide channel mounted below a seat area the snowmobile in a horizontal fashion;
an upright support member telecopingly mounted with said slide channel such that
when said upright support member is at a forward end, it is fully stowed, and when said upright support member is at an aft end it is deployed and pivotally to such a position as to allow a snowmobile's drive track and suspension to be raised up off of the surrounding grade,
wherein said upright support member terminates with a flexible plate spanning between a first

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cross member and a second cross member to provide a significant enough footprint to prevent the retractable stand from penetrating into snow if the stand is being used under outdoor conditions.

13. (Original) The improvement of Claim 12, wherein said flexible plate is selected from the group comprising KEVLAR(TM), nylon, and canvas type material.
14. (New) The retractable support stand for a snowmobile of Claim 8, wherein said upright support member is further incorporated into a rear bumper